Message Text

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R 071555Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5366

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, PO

SUBJECT: FINANCING FACILITY FOR PETROGAL CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCT IMPORTS

- 1. A CONSORTIUM OF BANKS HEADED BY MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST IS ASSEMBLING A 240 MILLION DOLLAR BANKERS' ACCEPTANCE FACILITY TO FINANCE PETROGAL'S IMPORTS OF CRUDE OIL AND REFINED PRODUCT. RICHARD ALDRICH OF FIRST WASHINGTON SECURITIES CORPORATION (A SUBSIDIARY OF BACHE, HALSEY STUART) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 6 TO BRIEF HIM ON THE PROJECT.
- 2. IN DESCRIBING THE FACILITY, ALDRICH NOTED THAT THE FACILITY WILL BE FOR 210 PLUS 30 DAYS BEYOND DATE OF SHIPMENT. HE THOUGHT THESE TERMS MIGHT ENCOUNTER SOME DIFFICULTY BECAUSE FEDERAL RESERVE REGUALTIONS REPORTEDLY REQUIRE THAT SUCH PAPER, TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DISCOUNT BY FEDERAL RESERVE, MUST HAVE A TERM OF NO MORE THAN 180 DAYS, PLUS 30 DAYS BEYOND DATE OF SHIPMENT. ALDRICH BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE REGULATION IS MORE OF A GUIDELINE THAN A HARD RULE. HE PLANS TO APPLY FOR AN EXCEPTION.
- 3. EMBASSY IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH FED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGULATIONS TO JUDGE ALDRICH'S STATEMENT. IF, IN FACT, FED REGULATION IS AS FLEXIBLE AS ALDRICH SUGGESTS, WE WOULD DEFINITELY SUPPORT AN EXCEPTION IN THIS CASE. BLOOMFIELD

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